

From: [Eoc, Epahq](#)
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Subject: EOC Spot Report Update # 4: Region 6, Fire at International Terminal Corporation, Deer Park, TX (NRC# 1240304 and 1240312)
Date: Wednesday, March 20, 2019 8:24:06 AM
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EOC Spot Report **Update # 4: Region 6, Fire at International Terminal Corporation, Deer Park, TX (NRC# 1240304 and 1240312)**

US Environmental Protection Agency
Report as of March **20, 2019 9:00 EDT**

Overview: On March 17, the Region 6 Phone Duty Officer was notified by the NRC (1240304) about the fire at International Terminal Corporation (ITC) in Deer Park, Houston TX. The fire reportedly started around 10:30 am. According to the NRC report one of the tanks containing naphtha has caught on fire, the total capacity of the tank is 80,000 barrels. ITC DEER PARK has issued an evacuation order of 5 miles radius and has engaged in firefighting shore side. City of Deer Park, TX has also issued a shelter in place order. There have been no injuries reported.

State, Local, and other Federal Agency Action: Coast Guard Station Houston and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) are on scene. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) plume modeling indicated that it would not affect the Houston Ship Channel. An Incident Command Post has been stood up. ITC has contracted with an incident management team to help manage the incident. USCG personnel are participating in Unified Command, focusing on water operations in Tucker Bayou (booming and skimming of foam).

EPA Actions: EPA and START mobilized on March 17 and entered Unified Command with TCEQ, Harris County Pollution Control Services Department (HCPCS), and ITC. EPA START and ITC continued air monitoring throughout the night in the vicinity and downwind.

At 1545 local Region 6 activated ASPECT to provide airborne sensing. The ASPECT aircraft measured no significant detections in the vicinity and downwind of the incident. The Trace Atmospheric Gas Analyzer (TAGA) bus is expected to arrive on site by March 21st. Instantaneous monitoring of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) continues to be conducted by the responsible party.

Two EPA START teams have completed air monitoring around the 14 identified Superfund NPL sites in Harris County to determine any effects of the plume at those sites, as well as taking readings downwind from the fire in various areas. No detections were identified. ITC continues to take hourly water samples at the ditch feeding into Tucker Bayou and sending the samples to an outside laboratory for analysis. Initial results are expected to become available between Wednesday and Friday. There is boom deployed in the ditch to capture the foam. Traces of foam have been observed in the ditch and Tucker Bayou by the U.S. Coast Guard. ITC has placed double containment boom along Tucker Bayou. Skimmers are actively removing foam from the bayou and pumping the material into vacuum trucks and storing the material in frac tanks onsite.

As of 0200 hours on March 19, 8 tanks containing gasoline blends, toluene, naphtha, xylenes, pyrolysis

gasoline, and blended oils were involved in the fire, within the firewall. Three tanks (including 2 empty) are believed to have collapsed at this time.

As of 3:00 am March 20, ITC reported that all fires had been extinguished within the tanks. They are now in the process of cooling the tanks with water. Potential re-ignition is possible until all tanks have been sufficiently cooled. Unified Command recognizes the VOC levels may increase now that the fire has been extinguished.

Several school districts had earlier decided to stay closed on Wednesday due to the ongoing fire-fighting efforts and plume issues.

ASPECT conducted a third flight over the ITC fire on March 19, 2019. Plume geometry was assessed with the aircraft with findings showing the plume was about 47 miles in length, 17 miles wide at the largest extent and ranged in altitude from a floor of 1500 feet to a ceiling of 5000 feet. No chemical detections were reported on this flight.

ITC's contractor, CTEH, is monitoring for VOCs and BTEX under the plume downwind from the fire. EMSI has been contracted by ITC to supplement the CTEH monitoring and are utilizing a mobile air monitoring unit. At the request of Unified Command, EMSI is monitoring identified environmental justice areas as well as areas around schools in the downwind areas of the plume.

2 EPA contractor teams continue to monitor in areas downwind from the fire site. A few minor VOC readings have been detected, but below health action levels.

ASPECT Photos from March 19

Media Interest: High

<https://www.click2houston.com/news/fire-at-deer-park-storage-facility-finally-out-after-several-days-itc-says>

<https://www.bizjournals.com/houston/news/2019/03/20/itc-deer-park-fire-near-houston-extinguished-some.html>

<https://www.chron.com/news/houston-texas/houston/article/Deer-Park-chemical-fire-extinguished-overnight-13702369.php>

The HQ EOC will continue to monitor and provide updates as needed

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